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SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

DETAILS ON THE ESTONIAN SHALE INDUSTRY

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. 7

General

During the Soviet regime, the Estonian shale and chemical industry has developed greatly, and the shale basin has become the industrial center of the republic. New enterprises have been put in operation, and mines equipped with upto-date Soviet techniques have been constructed. The first shale gas plant in the world, in Kokhtla-Yarve, supplies the city of Leningrad with household gas.(1) On 31 December 1952, the Kokhtla-Yarve -- Tallin gas pipeline was completed and made ready for use, 6 months ahead of the established date for its start of operations.(2)

Plan Fulfillment

Estonian shale workers and miners exceeded the 1952 plan, the plan for the second year of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, and delivered to the country much aboveplan shale, household gas, and liquid fuel.(1) On 25 March, the Estonslanets Combine completed the 1953 first-quarter plan for shale extraction 6 days ahead of schedule. Since the beginning of 1953, the shale workers have delivered 57 trainloads of above-plan shale.

One trainload of above-plan shale leaves every 3 days from sidings of the Kyava Mine, which, as well as the Kukruse Mine, has already exceeded its planned capacity (3) Workers of the Kukruse Mine pledged to complete the 1953 firstquarter plan by 23 March and to deliver 18,000 tons of above-plan shale by the end of March. The miners are fulfilling this pledge. In the first shift on 23 March, they delivered the last tons of shale on the 1953 first-quarter plan (4) On 24 March, the Kyava Mine No 2 completed the 1953 first-quarter plan for shale extraction.(3)

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Factors Involved in an Increased and Improved Shale Output

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Factors that would contribute to the fulfillment or even the exceeding of the Fifth Five-Year Plan would be the exploitation of shale seem F, which is not now being worked, and the mechanical cleaning of shale before it is processed. If mines of the Estonslanets Combine extracted the entire shale deposit, including seam F, there would not only be a direct increase in the shale output but, at the same time, production costs per ton of shale would drop 30 percent.

Shale contains three times as much noncombustible matter as coal, and for this reason, it is very important that its quality should be improved by cleaning. However, the cleaning process is carried out by removing the rock manually from the shale.

The lack of effective mechanized cleaning of shale is leading to a deterioration in economic indexes in the processing of shale for household gas. Failure by the mines to meet GOST (State All-Union Standard) requirements for technical conditions for the quality of shale, and the increased rock, fines, and moisture content, is complicating the work of the Kokhtla-Yarve Combine and interfering with the planned reduction in production costs of gas. To eliminate these defects, it is necessary to introduce mechanized cleaning of the shale by the wet-jigging method, which is successfully used in the coal mining industry, as well as other branches of mining. When the shale is cleaned by the wet-jigging method, its organic content goes up to 44 percent, even if seam F is worked, and the productivity of the chamber furnaces for producing gas goes up 28 percent and can be made to go considerably higher.

The introduction of the wet-jigging method of cleaning will solve the moisture problem connected with shale in fall and spring. Although shale does not absorb moisture even if under water for 48 hours, considerable sludge is found in large pieces of shale in the fall and spring. This sludge results from a mixture of water with shale dust. When the shale is cleaned by the wet-jigging method, this sludge is washed out and the shale acquires a normal moisture content of about 10 percent.(1)

SOURCES

- 1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 19 Feb 53
- 2. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 3 Jan 53
- 3. Sovetskaya Estoniya, 26 Mar 53
- 4. Ibid., 24 Mar 53 .

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